GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1975
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2016
Poor Output from Underground Mines
Ramachandran Shri Krishnan Narayanasamy

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only 10 percent production of coal is coming from the underground mines in the country;
(b) if so, the reasons therefor;
(c) whether the Government proposes to fix the responsibility in this regard;
(d) if so, the details thereof; and
(e) the steps taken by the Government to improve the extremely poor output from underground mines?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL, POWER AND NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a)&(b): All India coal production in the country from underground mines during the last three years was less than 10% of the total production. The scope for augmenting production from the underground mines was limited on account of difficult geo-mining conditions, non-availability of large size deposits for adopting mass production technologies, and long gestation periods involved. In addition, other major constraints in augmenting coal production from underground mines are: (i) Lack of appropriate technologies to mine coal from thick and steeply inclined and multiple seams (ii) Non-availability of indigenous manufacturing facilities for equipment and spares for longwall technology and continuous miner technology (iii) Long gestation periods mainly due to absence of mechanization for incline drivage and shaft sinking (iv) Gassiness of seams requiring special attention in certain cases (v) Adverse roof conditions (vi) High cost of production because of uneconomical scale (vii) Problem associated with contiguous / multiple seam working- Multiple seam workings have problems of goaved out waterlogged areas and fire in overlying seams restricting depillaring with caving. Contiguous seams pose problems of parting failure and roof control.

(c)&(d): In view of limited scope for underground mining in the country and the reasons cited above, the question of fixing responsibility does not arise.

(e):The steps envisaged by CIL to improve coal production from underground mines include:
â€¢ Planning new underground mines adopting mass production systems like continuous miner technology and longwall technology wherever feasible.
â€¢ Entering into risk / gain sharing arrangements with the equipment suppliers for guaranteed levels of production and maintenance of equipment
â€¢ Undertaking thorough geo-mining investigations before the formulation of the projects
â€¢ Training of manpower.
â€¢ Replacing manual loading with loading machines like Side Discharge Loaders (SDLs), Load Haul Dumpers (LHDs) in conjunction with belt conveyers wherever feasible
â€¢ Providing man riding systems to reduce travel time of miners
â€¢ Introducing multi skilled job concepts etc.
â€¢ Create adequate infrastructural facilities for ventilation, bunkerage, coal evacuation, out-bye transportation, mechanized tunnelling, shaft sinking, roof supporting.
â€¢ Delineate new blocks amenable for longwall technology with super block concept.

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